

Claims

- [1] An Internet washing machine comprising:
 - a communication modem connected to a communication network for transmitting/receiving data over the communication network;
 - a display unit for displaying whether the washing machine is communicable; and
 - a control unit for determining a network connection state and communication state of the communication modem and displaying through the display unit whether the washing machine is communicable, in accordance with results of the determination.
- [2] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication modem is a wireless communication modem.
- [3] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication modem is a power line communication modem.
- [4] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication modem is a local area network (LAN) modem.
- [5] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the display unit includes:
 - a first display part for displaying an operating state and washing information of the washing machine; and
 - a second display part for displaying a network communication state of the washing machine.
- [6] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a light emitting diode (LED).
- [7] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a liquid crystal display (LCD).
- [8] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a full graphic LCD.
- [9] The Internet washing machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the control unit includes:
 - a communication state checker for checking a network communication state of the communication modem; and
 - a display controller for controlling the display unit to display the communication state checked by the communication state checker through the display unit.
- [10] A method for operating an Internet washing machine, the washing machine being connected to a communication network to perform network communication, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) determining whether the washing machine is in connection to the com-

munication network and whether the washing machine can transmit and receive data over the communication network; and

b) displaying through display means whether the washing machine is communicable, in accordance with results of the determination.

[11] The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the step a) includes the steps of: determining whether the washing machine is in connection to the communication network, upon supply of power to the washing machine; and determining whether the washing machine can transmit and receive data over the communication network, if the washing machine is in connection to the communication network.

[12] The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the step b) includes the step of, if the washing machine is in connection to the communication network and can transmit and receive data over the communication network, displaying the fact that the washing machine is in a communication enable state.

[13] The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the step b) includes the step of, if the washing machine is not in connection to the communication network or if the washing machine cannot transmit and receive data over the communication network, displaying the fact that the washing machine is in a communication disable state.